

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for alleviating a disease state resulting from a microbial infection affecting musculoskeletal soft tissue, said method comprising the steps of:

 determining a localized area of a patient's body in which affected musculoskeletal soft tissue is located;

 providing a treatment composition comprising, in combination:

 (i) a selected macrolide antibiotic; and

 (ii) a selected mobilizing agent in an amount sufficient to enable said macrolide antibiotic to penetrate into said musculoskeletal soft tissue; and applying said treatment composition to said localized area of said patient's body so that said macrolide antibiotic penetrates said affected musculoskeletal soft tissue so as to reach said microbial infection therein.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying said treatment compound comprises:

 applying said treatment composition topically to a skin area overlying said musculoskeletal soft tissue in said predetermined area of the body.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying said treatment composition comprises:

 applying said treatment composition by hypodermic injection into said musculoskeletal soft tissue in said area of the body.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (cancelled)